



By the King.

A Proclamation concerning the making of Starch.



Hereas vpon complaints made, & often renewed vnto Vs, of the great inconueniences which happen by the conuerting of great quantities of Wheat, Flower, Meale, & other things fit for the foode of man, into the making of Starch, and by the making of Starch in places vnfit and inconuenient, whereby vnſauoury ſmells and noyſome ſtenches ariſe, to the great annoyanc of Our louing Subjects inhabiting neere vnto, or paſſing by theſe places: We out of Our Princely care to haue a due reformation of theſe inconueniences, wherein the Common Wealth hath ſo great an intereſt, Haue heretefore by Our ſeueral Proclamations commanded ſuch directions to be obſerued, as vpon mature, and deliberate conſideration wee conceiued, might beſt tend to theſe ends: And yet through wilfulneſſe of diuers of the Starchmakers, wee haue hitherto failed of Our hopes and deſires, and the miſchiefes haue the rather increaſed through Our lenity. Now hauing lately receiued an humble petition from diuers of the Starch-makers themſelues, whereby they haue been humble ſuiters vnto Us, that if wee would vouchſafe by Our Letters Patents, to incorporate them into a Body politique, to haue a perpetuall ſucceſſion, and thereby to enable them, by the helpe of good Lawes and Ordinances, to gouerne the members of their owne Bodie, that they would not onely ſubmit themſelues, but would alſo be anſwerable vnto Us, for ſuch a reformation to follow, as ſhould eaſe vs from further complaints: We conceiuing this to be the moſt probable meanes for reformation, or to leaue them without excuſe, which will not bee reformed, haue been graciously pleaſed to incorporate the Starch-makers, and to giue them ſuch power for their gouernement, as they did reaſonably deſire. And the Starch-makers on their parts, haue vndertaken vnto Us, that they, nor any member of their body, will at any time hereafter, make any Starch of Wheate, Flower, Meale, or other thing prohibited, but will make the ſame of Pollard, and Branne onely, and ſell the ſame at and for reaſonable prices: And that they will not let by, or maintaine any Starch-houſe, or vſe the making of any Starch in any places, which by the vnfit ſituation thereof, or by the ill ordering thereof, may bee an annoyanc to others; and that if all others might be prohibited to make Starch to put to ſale, who ſhould not ſubmit themſelues to become members of their body, and conſequently bee ſubject to their gouernment: That then they would with the vttermoſt of their endeauours, diſcouer all ſuch offenders, and draw them into a way to bee proceeded againſt for their contempt according to Juſtice, in ſuch ſort as we ſhould direct. We therefore calling to mind, that the prices of Corne are now growne to much higher rates, then in theſe later and cheaper yeeres the ſame were at, and perceiuing that of late many Tradersmen out of a greedy deſire of gaine, though with the hurt of the Common Wealth, haue taken vpon them to be Starch-makers, and left their former Trades and Occupations, haue reſolued to haue an effectuall reformation of the abuſes aforeſayd, and conſtantly to put Our directions for that purpoſe into execution: And to the end that what the Starch-makers haue vndertaken on their parts to performe, may bee indeed really performed, wee haue conſtituted and appointed a Surueyor, who ſhall bee Our ſworne officer, and ſeruant to that purpoſe, to ouerſee the ſame in euery part. Now to the end that all Our louing Subjects may take knowledge of Our Royall pleaſure herein, wee doe by this Our preſent Proclamation ſtraightly charge and command, that no perſon or perſons whatſoeuer, other then ſuch as are, or ſhall bee members of the ſaid Company of Starchmakers, ſhall preſume to attempt, or goe about, to make any Starch at all.

That no person whatsoever, which shall make any Starch, shall make the same of wheate-
Flower, Beale, or other thing then Pollard, and Branne onely.

That no person whatsoever, shall set by, maintaine, or vse any Starch-house, or any vessell for the
making of Starch, in any place, which for the situation thereof, either in respect of the neerenesse
thereof to any City or Towne, or other dwellings, or in regard of the neerenes to any common high
way, roade, or ordinary passage of people, is, or shall appeare to be noysome to any other.

That no Grocer, Chapman, or other person who bseth to buy Starch to sell againe, shall buy, vt-
ter, sell, or otherwise barter, or vent any Starch, which they shall know to haue beene made by any
person, who is not a known member of the said Company of Starch-makers, so as alwayes the
Starch-makers shall be ready to sell the same, at and for such reasonable prices, as the said Compa-
ny haue by their Indenture vnder their common Seale vnderaken, and agreed to sell the same.

That no person presume to sell any Starch as a Huckster, or Hawker, from doore to doore, in pri-
uate, or secret, or otherwise then in their owne proper and open Shops, or Warehouses.

And Our Will and pleasure is, That if any person shall offend hereafter in any of the premises, or
in giuing ayde or assistance to any the said offenders, directly, or indirectly, that Our Commissioners
which wee hereafter shall to that purpose authorize, for the readie hearing, and dispatch of all com-
plaints touching the premises, shall heare and examine all the complaints which shall be made a-
gainst any such offenders, and shall inflict such punishment vpon such offenders, by imprisonment, or
otherwise, as Our said Commissioners in their wisdomes shall thinke fit, hauing respect vnto the
qualitie of the offences. And if Our sayd Commissioners, shall in their good discretions finde any,
whose offence, or misdeemeanour deserueth to be made more exemplary, Our pleasure and command
is, That such offenders shall vndergoe the censure, and seueritie of Our Court of Starre-chamber,
for the contempt of Our Prerogative Royall, in a matter of such consequence, touching the good and
benefit of Our people. And to the end our Pleasure and Command herein, may be the better effected,
wee doe hereby straitly charge and command, all and singular Iustices of Peace, Mayors, She-
riffes, Bayliffes, Constables, Headboroughs, and all other Our Officers, and Subiects whatsoever,
whensoeuer any complaints shall be brought vnto them, or any of them, of or for any offence or mis-
deemeanour committed within the limits of their seuerall Jurisdictions, at all times, and from time
to time, to be ayding and assisting to such as shall at any time be imployed, in or about the execution of
this Our Ordinance, and carefully and diligently to doe their vttermost endeauour, that this Our
Royall Command herein signified and expresse, be in all points duely perfourmed; And that they
doe not suffer any person or persons whatsoever, within any of their Precincts, from and after the
publication of this Our Proclamation, to make or cause to be made, directly or indirectly, any Starch
in any other maner, or in any other place or places, within this Our Realme of England, Dominion of
Wales, or Port or Towne of Barwicke, then by such persons, and in such maner, and in such places, as
are herein directed and intended; but that they vse their vttermost powers and endeauours, by all
lawfull meanes, to hinder and suppress the same. And Our further will and Command is, That
not onely Our said Commissioners, which are or shall be appointed by Us to this purpose, but also
all other Our Iustices of Peace, Mayors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, and other Our chiefe Officers, in
all the parts of Our Realme of England, and Dominion aforesaid, and Port and Towne of Barwicke,
when the nature and quality of the offence and contempt shall appeare, to deserue a more exemplary
punishment as aforesaid, shall cause all and euery the offenders against any Branch, Article, or part
of this Our Royall Proclamation, to be bound with Sureties in good Bonds to Our vse, for their
appearance before Us and Our Prīue Counsell, in Our Court of Starre-chamber, there to answer
their contempts; And if they, or any of them, shall refuse to enter into such Bonds, then to commit
euery person so offending vnto prison, there to remaine vntill further order by Us, and Our Counsell,
shall be taken for their enlargement and release.

Giuen at Our Manour of Theobalds, this sixteenth day of May, in the twentieth yeere of Our Reigne of
England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the five and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton and Iohn Bill, Printers to the Kings
most Excellent Maiestie. M.D.C.XXII